

REMARKS

The above-identified application is United States application serial number 10/715,167 filed on November 17, 2003. Claims 1-50 are pending in the application. Claims 8-11 and 18-39 are withdrawn. Claims 1-7, 12-17, and 40-50 are rejected.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7, 12-17, and 40-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bolt (U.S. Patent No. 6,766,412, hereafter referred to as Bolt) or rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated under U.S. Publication No. 2002/0144048, the prior publication corresponding to Bolt. Applicants have amended all claims to distinguish over Bolt.

Claims 1-7 distinguish over Bolt which does not disclose a "tape mirror interface comprising . . . a plurality of output terminals coupled to a plurality of tape storage devices in the tape storage system." In all examples (Figures 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, and 4B), Bolt teaches a single output terminal for coupling to a single data transfer device (tape drive). Furthermore, Bolt specifically requires a separate interface (25) for each data transfer device (tape drive 148), for example in column 6, lines 1-4; column 14, lines 48-50; column 16, lines 63-65 ("host 12 can communicate with each particular device 148 through a corresponding microbridge 25"); and column 17, lines 17-19 ("each microbridge 25 receives and decodes host commands destined to the corresponding tape drive 148").

Bolt also does not disclose "a control element . . . presenting for host logical access at least two associated mirror devices of the plurality of tape storage devices [in the tape storage system] as separate media devices and selectively controlling data transfer in the at least two associated mirror devices in a synchronous mode so that writes to a logical target tape storage media directed to the tape mirror interface are mirrored to a mirrored tape storage media and in a split mode so that writes to logical target tape storage media directed to selected tape storage devices are written to the tape storage devices independently without mirroring." Bolt does not disclose data transfer to multiple tape storage devices in the tape storage system but rather to a single tape storage device associated with a microbridge in a one-to-one relationship, with mirroring to another tape drive that is accesses via "[t]he path back to the second device 148 of the mirrored pair is back out the host interface 15, 29 and

through switches (external to the library . . .) to the host interface 15, 29 of the microbridge 25 of the second device 148" (Col. 18, lines 36-40).

Amended Claims 12-17, 40-44, and 50 distinguish over Bolt which does not disclose "a control element . . . [that] writes to a target tape storage media are received by a mirror interface as a logical target and mirrored to a mirrored tape storage media in the tape storage array." Bolt does not disclose data transfer to multiple tape storage devices in the tape storage system but rather to a single tape storage device associated with a microbridge in a one-to-one relationship, with mirroring to another tape drive that is accesses via "[r]he path back to the second device 148 of the mirrored pair is back out the host interface 15, 29 and through switches (external to the library . . .) to the host interface 15, 29 of the microbridge 25 of the second device 148" (Col. 18, lines 36-40).

Amended Claims 45-49 distinguish over Bolt which does not disclose "an interface . . . configured for transferring data from at least one data source external to the tape storage system to the plurality of tape drives in the tape storage system." Bolt teaches a single output terminal for coupling to a single data transfer device (tape drive). Furthermore, Bolt specifically requires a separate interface (25) for each data transfer device (tape drive 148), for example in column 6, lines 1-4; column 14, lines 48-50; column 16, lines 63-65 ("host 12 can communicate with each particular device 148 through a corresponding microbridge 25"); and column 17, lines 17-19 ("each microbridge 25 receives and decodes host commands destined to the corresponding tape drive 148").

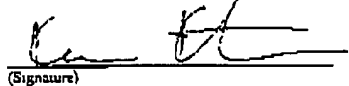
New Claims

New Claims 51 and 52 depend from Claims 1 and 12, respectively and cover concepts originally included in the description so that no new matter is added.

CONCLUSION

The application, including all remaining Claims 1-7, 12-17, and 40-52, is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at (949) 251-0250.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO. Central Number at (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.

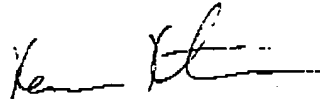


(Signature)

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February 20, 2007
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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